

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, LB 998 would amend Nebraska's Medicare Supplement Act with changes proposed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners in its 1987 model act on this subject. The committee amendments would clarify language and delete provisions for regulation of limited indemnity policies because such policies are now regulated by the Long-term and Care Insurance Act passed by the Legislature in 1987. I would urge the adoption of these amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Any discussion? If not, those in favor of the adoption of the committee amendments please vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on the adoption of the committee amendments. Please record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Remmers.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this bill was introduced by the committee at the request of the Department of Insurance. The purpose of this bill is to make Nebraska's Medicare supplement minimum insurance standards compatible with the Medicare Catastrophic Loss Retention Act of 1987, which would increase Medicare benefits, under Title 18 of the Social Security Act. The bill will accomplish this purpose by replacing Nebraska's Medicare supplement and sickness and accident insurance minimum standards with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, December 1987, model act for Medicare supplement minimum standards. This bill is necessary and desirable because it will coordinate the minimum standards for Medicare supplement insurance policies sold in Nebraska with the increased Medicare benefits brought about by changes the United States Congress is making to the Medicare program. This bill provides for appropriate regulation over certain Medicare supplement policies which cover Nebraska residents when such insurance coverage has been issued in other states. Second, it provides appropriate regulation of commissions generated on sales of such insurance policies. And, third, changes provisions regarding minimum loss ratios on these policies. There was no opposition to this bill in committee or by the committee members, and I would urge the advancement of